## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application, with claims 1 and 11 being independent.

New claims 20 and 21 are added to provide more varied protection of the invention. An excess claim fee payment letter is submitted herewith for one excess total claim.

### *Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102*

Claims 1, 4-9, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Zysnarski et al. (US 6,590,174). This rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims.

Independent claim 1 recites a control element comprising:

> *a combined scale and corona illumination, wherein the scale is a part of a panel that is designed to work together with the control element;*
>
> *an optical light guide formed from a single piece that includes two parts, the two parts being partially separated by an annular slot, such that parts of the panel engage or project into the slot;*
>
> *a light rotor that extends towards the optical light guide to a height necessary for light transport; and*
>
> *a light source located below the light rotor*. (Emphasis added.)

As exemplarily illustrated in Fig. 2, the subject application discloses that the light from the light source 9 located below the light rotor 7 is transported through the light rotor 7 into the upper region, where it is coupled to the optical light guide 6 for

backlighting or illumination of the scale 3 and the corona 5. See, e.g., specification at page 3, paragraph [0017].

Zysnarski is distinguished from the above quoted feature in that Zysnarski clearly fails to show at least "*a light rotor that extends towards the optical light guide to a height necessary for light transport; and a light source located below the light rotor*" as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added), for at least the following reasons.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner stated that Zysnarski discloses:

> a combined scale and corona illumination, wherein the scale is a part of a panel (e.g., 24) that is designed to work together with the control element (e.g., 14), an optical light guide (e.g., 16; column 3, lines 1-20) formed from a single piece that includes two parts (e.g., *"upper portion & lower portion"*; Figure 1), the two parts being partially separated by an annular slot (e.g., 68), such that parts of the panel engage or project into the slot, a light rotor (e.g., 14) that extends towards the optical light guide (e.g., 16) to a height necessary for light transport, and a light source (e.g., 22) located below the light rotor (e.g., 14).

See Office Action at page 3; emphasis added.

The Examiner compares the knob 14 to the claimed light rotor. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Zysnarski clearly does not disclose that the knob 14 is a light rotor. Moreover, Zysnarski clearly does not disclose that the knob 14 extends toward the optical light guide to a height necessary for light transport, as claimed.

For example, Zysnarski specifically discloses that switch assembly 40 is configured such that the light which is emitted from the lights sources 22 is emitted from the gap 38, which surrounds the knob 14, so that the knob 14 appears to be floating on the light. See col. 5, lines 14-16.

Zysnarski does not disclose that the knob 14 itself transports light from the light sources 22, or for that matter, that the knob 14 extends toward the light diffuser 16, which the Examiner compares to the claimed optical light guide, to a height necessary for light transport. Instead, Zysnarski specifically discloses that an interior surface 58 of the knob 14 reflects light, which then ends up being transmitted through the gap 38, which surrounds the knob 14. See col. 5, lines 5-7.

Specifically, Zysnarski discloses that:

> Each light source 22 emits light, some of which traverses a light path or optical path from the light source 22 to a gap 38 about a periphery of the knob 14. The light that emanates from the gap 38 about the knob 14 and the affiliated light path may comprise contributions (e.g., rays) from one or more of the following: a generally direct light component 54, a reflective light component 56, and a refractive light component (not shown). The diffuser 34 may refract light incident upon the interior surface 32 at certain angles because of the different indices of refraction of the light diffuser 16 and the surrounding air in the interior region 60, in accordance with Snell's law, as is well known to those skilled in the optical arts. When light leaves the diffuser 16 and enters the exterior, the light may be refracted again. The light diffuser 16 tends to scatter light incident upon the diffuser 16 in addition to refracting it. An interior surface 58 of the knob 14 may reflect light, which ends up being transmitted through the gap 38. In one embodiment, the interior surface 58 may be white or coated with a reflective material (e.g., a metallic material) to maximize the reflective component. Accordingly, maximizing the magnitude of the reflective component 56 may increase the intensity of the light emitted from the gap 38 so long as the light waves combine in a predominately constructive manner.

See col. 4, lines 57-67, and col. 5, lines 1-13; emphasis added.

Fig. 1 of Zysnarski specifically shows the reflective component 56 of light being reflected from the reflective interior surface 58 of the knob 14. Thus, the knob 14 reflects light, rather than transporting light. Accordingly, Zysnarski clearly fails to disclose at least "*a light rotor*" as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added), and therefore, does not anticipate claim 1.

Further, the knob 14 of Zysnarski also does not extend from the light source 22 toward the light diffuser 16 to a height for light transport. Instead, the light diffuser 16 extends from the light source 22 towards the knob 14. Accordingly, Zysnarski also does not disclose at least "*a light rotor that extends towards the optical light guide to a height necessary for light transport*" as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added), and therefore, does not anticipate claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1. Claims 4-9 and 17 depend therefrom and are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

Applicants note that claim 16 depends from claim 11, which is not rejected based on Zysnarski. Thus, claim 16 is allowable by virtue of its dependency from claim 11, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

***Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103***

Claims 1, 2, and 4-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glienicke (US 6,224,221). Claims 2, 3, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zysnarski et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed insofar as they pertain to the presently pending claims.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 4-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glienicke, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 recites a control element comprising:

> *a combined scale and corona illumination, wherein the scale is a part of a panel that is designed to work together with the control element;*
>
> *an optical light guide formed from a single piece that includes two parts, the two parts being partially separated by an annular slot, such that parts of the panel engage or project into the slot;*
>
> *a light rotor that extends towards the optical light guide to a height necessary for light transport; and*
>
> *a light source located below the light rotor.* (Emphasis added.)

As exemplarily illustrated in Fig. 2, the subject application discloses that the light from the light source 9 located below the light rotor 7 is transported through the light rotor 7 into the upper region, where it is coupled to the optical light guide 6 for backlighting or illumination of the scale 3 and the corona 5. See, e.g., specification at page 3, paragraph [0017].

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner stated that Glienicke discloses:

> Glienicke discloses a combined scale and corona illumination, wherein the scale is a part of a panel that is designed to work together with the control element, an optical light guide (e.g., 6, 11) that includes two parts (e.g., 6 & 11), which are partially separated y an annular slot (e.g., Figure 1), such that parts of the panel engage (e.g., 9) or project into the slot, a light rotor (e.g., 1) that extends towards the optical light guide (e.g., 6, 11) to a height necessary for light transport, and a light source (e.g., 5) located below the light rotor (e.g., 1).

See Office Action at page 5, emphasis added.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner misinterpreted the features of the "*light rotor*" as being comparable to the overall knob assembly 1 of Glienicke. Thus, the Examiner's position is not understood. As shown in Fig. 1, the overall knob assembly 1 clearly is not "*a light rotor that extends towards the optical light*

*guide to a height necessary for light transport; and a light source located below the light rotor*" as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added), as recited in claim 1.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding Office Action fails to establish the obviousness of claim 1 over Glienicke. Applicants respectfully reiterate the request that the Examiner clarify this rejection, if maintained.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding Office Action fails to establish that Glienicke discloses or suggests at least "*an optical light guide formed from a single piece that includes two parts, the two parts being partially separated by an annular slot, such that parts of the panel engage or project into the slot*" (emphasis added), as recited by claim 1.

The Examiner alleges that the optical light guide is taught by the combination of the light transmitting body 6 and the light transmitting body 11. In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that Glienicke fails to specify that the first and second optical light guide are formed from a single piece. The Examiner alleged that it would have been obvious to combine the first and second light-transmitting body to be a single piece.

However, the Examiner failed to address or respond to Applicants' position that the features of "*the two parts being partially separated by an annular slot, such that parts of the panel engage or project into the slot*", as recited in claim 1, are not disclosed or suggested by Glienicke.

For example, with reference to Fig. 1 of Glienicke, it can be clearly seen that the light transmitting bodies 6, 11 are not partially separated, as recited in claim 1. Instead, the light transmitting bodies 6, 11 are completely separate. See Col. 2, lines 38-41 of Glienicke, which teaches that "the light-transmitting body 6 terminates with its peripheral

part 8 in a transparent housing section 9...[t]his housing section 9 includes...a light-transmitting body 11," emphasis added. Thus, Glienicke does not disclose or suggest that the light transmitting body 6 or the light transmitting body 11 of the housing 9 have an annular slot that partially separates each one into two parts, as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Glienicke does not disclose or suggest that parts of a panel engage with such a slot or project into a slot. Thus, Glienicke also clearly fails to disclose or suggest at least "*the two parts being partially separated by an annular slot, such that parts of the panel engage or project into the slot*" (emphasis added) as recited in claim 1.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding Office Action falls to establish the obviousness of claim 1 over Glienicke. Claims 2, 4-10, and 17-19 depend therefrom and are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw this rejection.

With respect to rejection of independent claim 11, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for somewhat similar reasons as claim 1 above.

For example, claim 12 recites a control element including:

> *a rotary knob;*
>
> *a corona substantially circumscribing the rotary knob, the corona being adapted to emit light therefrom;*
>
> *a scale substantially circumscribing the corona and the rotary knob, the scale being adapted to emit light therefrom;*
>
> *an optical light guide formed from a single piece having an annular slot provided therein, the annular slot being formed to receive a projection*

*extending from the scale; the optical light guide directing light towards the scale and the corona; and*

*a light rotor that directs light from a light source towards the optical light guide* (emphasis added).

As noted above with respect to claim 1, neither of the light transmitting bodies 6, 11 of Glienicke have an annular slot provided therein, whereby the slot receives a projection extending from the scale.

Thus, Glienicke is distinguished from the above quoted feature in that Glienicke fails to show at least "*an optical light guide formed from a single piece having an annular slot provided therein, the annular slot being formed to receive a projection extending from the scale*" as recited in claim 11 (emphasis added).

Furthermore, in the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner alleged that Glienicke discloses a combined scale and corona illumination, wherein the scale is part of a panel that is designed to work together with the control element. However, the Office Action failed to establish that Glienicke discloses "*a scale substantially circumscribing the corona and the rotary knob, the scale being adapted to emit light therefrom*" as recited in claim 11 (emphasis added).

For example, referring to col. 2, line 41, Glienicke discloses that the "housing section 9 includes a scale 10." Thus, it is unclear how the scale 10 circumscribes the housing section 9 if the housing 9 includes the scale 10.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is not rendered obvious from Glienicke. Claims 12-16 depend therefrom and are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw this rejection.

With respect to the rejection of claims 2, and 3-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zysnarski, Applicants respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 2 and 3-10 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on the above-identified independent claims. See MPEP § 2143.01. Moreover, these claims recite additional subject matter, which is not suggested by the documents taken either alone or in combination.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

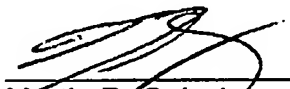
Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Martin R. Geissler, Applicants' Attorney at 1.703.621.7140 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3828 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Date: July 16, 2007

Respectfully Submitted,



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